

REMARKS

Claims 1, and 15-17 have been amended to contain more traditional punctuation for U.S. Practice. None of these claims has been amended in view of any requirement of patentability.

Claims 18 and 19 have been amended from the "use" format acceptable in European practice, to method claims complying with 35 U.S.C. § 101.

A mark-up version of the amended claims is attached hereto.

Questions are welcomed by the below-signed attorney for applicant.

Respectfully submitted,

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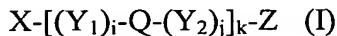
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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (Amended) Linker system for activating surfaces for bioconjugation having the following general formula (I):



wherein:

X is a reactive group capable of covalently binding to a surface,

Z is a reactive group capable of covalently binding to a biomolecule, ~~with the proviso~~ that

X is not Z,

Y₁ and Y₂ are, independently from each other, CR₁R₂, with

R₁ and R₂ ~~being~~ are, independently from each other, H, C₁-C₄ alkyl, C₁-C₄ alkoxy or C₁-C₄ acyloxy,

i, j, and k are, independently from each other, an integer in the range from 1 to 10, ~~with the proviso that~~

the total number of C atoms in Y₁ and Y₂, the C atoms of R₁ and R₂ not included, is in the range of 2 to 100, and

Q is a hydrophilic atom or group selected from the group consisting of O, NH, C=O, O-C=O and CR₃R₄, wherein

R₃ and R₄ are, independently from each other, selected from the group consisting of H, OH, C₁-C₄ alkoxy and C₁-C₄ acyloxy, and with the proviso that

R₃ and R₄ are not H at the same time; and that for

wherein when Q = NH₂, Z is not NH₂; and wherein in the case of
wherein when k > 1, the Q's for each [(Y₁)_i-Q-(Y₂)_j]_k are independently selected from
each other.

15. (Twice Amended) Process for the detection of a biomolecule which is a partner of a specifically interacting system of complementary binding partners, comprising the steps of:

- a) contacting a surface according to claim 10 with a sample suspected to contain the complementary binding partner,
- b) removing non-specifically bound sample components in a washing step, and
- c) detecting the specifically bound sample components.

16. (Amended) Process according to claim 15 wherein for said detecting, a colored, fluorescent, bioluminescent, chemoluminescent, phosphorescent or radioactive label; an enzyme; an antibody or a functional fragment or derivative thereof, a protein A/gold based system; a biotin/avidin/streptavidin based system; or an enzyme electrode based system is used.

17. (Twice Amended) Process for the isolation of a biomolecule which is a partner of a specifically interacting system of complementary binding partners, comprising the steps of:

- a) contacting a surface according to claim 10 with a sample suspected to contain the biomolecule complementary binding partner,

- b) removing non-specifically bound sample components in a washing step, and, optionally,
- c) eluting the specifically bound sample components.

18. (Twice Amended) Use of A method of affinity chromatography comprising the steps of:

providing a surface according to claim 10 as an affinity matrix; and
performing affinity chromatography with the affinity matrix.

19. (Twice Amended) Use of A method of detecting a biomolecule comprising the steps
of:

providing a sensor chip or biochip comprising a surface according to claim 10 in a sensor chip or biochip; and
detecting a biomolecule with the sensor chip or biochip.